



506 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 1S7 kxcalgary.com

## December 11, 2022 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

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**Worship Leader:** The Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis  
**Music Director:** Chellan Hoffman **Knox United Church Choir**  
**Cantor:** Karen Harrison, Pete Dennis **Reader:** Gillian Forster

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*We extend a warm welcome to our Knox community – to those who are tuning in to the livestream service from home or away, and to those who are gathered in our sanctuary.  
You are all an integral part of this community. Thank you for being here.*

We acknowledge that we live, work, play and worship on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani), the TsuuT'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki, and Wesley), the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

All are welcome in our faith community, regardless of age, colour, ethnic, religious or linguistic background, gender, gender identity, social or economic circumstances, sexual orientation and physical or mental capabilities. Knox has been a proud member of Affirm United since 2007.

**PRELUDE** Ding! Dong! Merrily on High Traditional English carol, arr. Mark Hayes

### WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

**\*HYMN** “Joy to the World” VU 59

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today is the third Sunday of Advent – a time of preparation and waiting.

**All: We wait expectantly for joy to be made real in our lives.**

One: We light the third candle.

**All: May joy come to us in this season and in our lives.**

One: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

**All: O Come, O, Come, Emmanuel!**

**Advent Song**      **“Hope is a Star” VU 7, vs 3** (sung and seated while the candle is lit)

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.  
When God is a child there’s joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Joyful and Surprising God, on this third Sunday in Advent, we look for joy to be experienced in our lives and in our world. We wait for the surprising ways you show up and enter into our lives. We give thanks for your birth and join the chorus in exclamation – Joy to the world! Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ, be with you.  
**And also with you. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** (see insert)

Brianna Katherine Elms

Parents: Alyssa and Alan Elms

**HYMN**    **“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” VU 2** (tune: VU 333)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**CANDLELIGHTING / OFFERING**

You are invited to light a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Candles are lit as a symbol of remembrance, celebration, gratitude, prayer. Please take this opportunity to make an offering online or in person at the candle table. Your financial support makes a huge difference in the future of Knox.

**Music: My Little Drum, from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* Vince Giraldi**

(Celebrating one hundred years since the birth of Charles Schulz - Nov 26, 1922 - who was an influential American cartoonist, and creator of the classic and timeless comic strip, *Peanuts*.)

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 1:1-8

**REFLECTION**      **“The Songs of Christmas: John’s Song”**  
Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      **“All Earth is Waiting” VU 5**

**THE BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**    **Masters in the Hall**      **Traditional French carol, arr. Mark Hayes**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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***Thank you for spending time in community worship at Knox United Church, Calgary.  
May you feel God’s peace, care, energy, and blessing  
within you and around you this coming week.***

***Please stay for coffee, tea, and conversation!***

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**Thank You to Knox staff & volunteers:**

Sheena Trotter-Dennis (minister)  
Sue Forsyth (office administrator)  
Jampa Tseten, Stephen Wallace (caretaker)  
Carey Barrett/Frank Lam (video operator)  
Tenzin Dawa/Steve Miller (sound operator)

Chellan Hoffman (director of music)  
Gerald Love (greeter & usher)  
Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)  
Murray, Vi, Chuck (coffee crew)  
Roman Sizer (social media; IT support)

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# TODAY @ KNOX

## **HO, HO, HO: *The Christmas Bake Sale!!***

Please join us after the service in the Labyrinth for the yearly Christmas bake sale fundraiser. You can drop off all your baked goods to Murray and Vi before the service.

## **The Finance/Stewardship Team Meeting – *December 11***

The Finance/Stewardship Team will meet again **AFTER** the Knox Bake Sale @12 noon in the boardroom.

The Agenda will include the Stewardship Campaign Evaluation, a review of the Nov-Dec Financial budget (if available), and next steps from the Congregational Town Hall Meeting held in late November. Bring your baking and enjoy it while we meet!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Calendar**

Advent Wednesdays at 10 am - Coffee Break in the Sanctuary with Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis  
Tuesday December 13 @ 7:00 pm- Book Study - discussion on "Speaking Christian" by Marcus Borg  
Thursday December 15 @ 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal in the Labyrinth Room  
Wednesday December 21 @ 7 pm Blue Christmas: Join us in the Labyrinth  
Saturday December 24 @ 7 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Brass & Bells  
Saturday December 24 @ 11 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Communion  
Sunday December 25 @ 10:30 am Carols and Readings - come in your PJ's or Ugly Christmas Sweaters  
Sunday January 1 @ 10:30 am - A time to ground ourselves for the new year in music and reflection

## **KNOX EVENTS**

### **Ushers and Volunteers Required – *Numerous occasions***

Volunteer ushers for a number of concerts and also for the Christmas Eve Service are urgently needed.

Most rental agreements we host require that we supply ushers.

As a result, we need volunteers. We can't do it without you!

Please support Knox in this important way.

Please go to the Knox website and sign up for the many events and the position of your choosing.

### **Advent Wednesdays at 10 AM - Coffee Break in the Sanctuary**

Come join the discussion! On Wednesday mornings at 10 am during Advent, you are invited to drop in for a weekly discussion on the week's theme and text (November 23, 30, December 7, 14). We will meet for 1 hour. Come once or come every time. No preparation necessary - just come open to engage with the text and with one another. For more information, you can email Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis at [strotterdennis@kxcalgary.com](mailto:strotterdennis@kxcalgary.com).

### **Christmas @ Knox**

Saturday December 24 @ 7 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles,

Saturday December 24 @ 11 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Communion

Sunday December 25 @ 10:30 am Carols and Readings - come in your PJ's or Ugly Christmas Sweaters

Sunday January 1 @ 10:30 am - A time to ground ourselves for the new year in music and reflection

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **Affirming Connections**

Walking in Two Worlds

Thursday January 19, 2023

6 pm – 7:30 pm

A very special event on what we can learn from indigenous ways of learning and gathering, featuring Rev. Michele Rowe.

Michele (she/her) is a Metis woman whose family (both Metis/Cree and European) are rooted in the Athabasca Region of Alberta.

Michele's spiritual practices incorporated indigenous and Christian ways of connection with the Creator and Creation.

Michelle is a Registered Social Worker, Certified Grief Recovery Specialist and Certified Community and Workplace Traumatologist. She ministers alongside the faithful folks of Maple Creek United in Saskatchewan.

## **Join us for our January Book Study**

**January 11, 18, 25 | 7:30 to 9:00pm MT**

An Online Book Study in 3 Parts

Dear Friends, join us on zoom this coming January to discuss Brian McLaren's new book *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*.

Wisdom Centre member, the Rev. Christine Conkin (Victoria, BC), will lead a three part online study of this provocative new book from Brian McLaren. Whether you are wrestling with this question or not, all of us can relate to times of doubt, disappointment and disillusion! He concludes with a question that is important and relevant for all of us, "How are we going to live?"

*Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned* by Brian McLaren

Join us on zoom this coming January to discuss Brian McLaren's new book *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*.

The book delves into contemporary Christian identity, combining "his own experience with that of thousands of people who have confided in him over the years to help readers make a responsible, honest, ethical decision about their religious identity." He offers 10 reasons to decide "no"; 10 reasons to decide "yes"; and then turns to wonder about "how?" "Whatever we decide... how can we do so in a good, honest, and loving way?" How are we going to live?

Each session will include a video introduction and time for discussion.

January 11: Introduction & Part 1 - "No"

January 18: Part 2 - "Yes"

January 25: Part 3 - "How?"

If you are interested in hearing more about this book, here is a link to an introductory video by Brian McLaren:

**Brian McLaren intro to his book, "Do I Stay a Christian?"**

**Registration** for this event is free. Click the link below to register and once you do you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom info for the online sessions.

### **Register for Book Study**

**About our study leader:** The Rev. Christine Conkin has served in ordained ministry since 2006 in both Calgary and Victoria. Her spiritual life is grounded in dance and a variety of active outdoor activities, which combine with her biblical and theological studies to inform her interest in the transformation of today's church. She is currently Incumbent of St. George, Cadboro Bay in Victoria, BC